Quarterly Population Report

First Quarter 2017

Natural increase and immigration offset interprovincial losses

Alberta's population grew during the first quarter, but the pace was relatively slow. Despite solid gains through immigration and natural increase, continued net losses of interprovincial migrants along with outflows of non-permanent residents slowed growth to 0.28%. Although this was the lowest first quarter growth since 1993, it nonetheless outpaced the national rate of 0.24%.

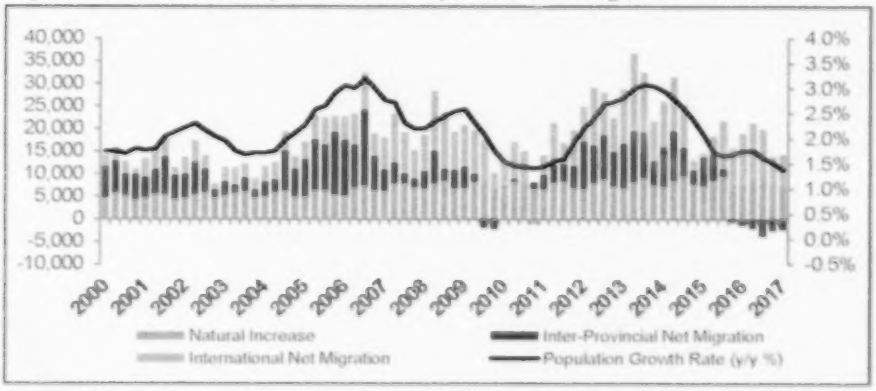
In the first quarter of 2017, Alberta added 11,853 people (Table 1) resulting in an estimated population of 4,291,980, as of April 1st. Natural increase (births minus deaths) continued to be a key driver of population growth in Alberta, increasing the population by 0.17%. Net international migration also boosted the province's population by 0.17%, while net interprovincial migration hampered growth, shrinking the population by 0.06%. Of the provinces, only Manitoba and Ontario had higher quarterly growth rates at 0.32% and 0.29%, respectively.

On a year-over-year basis, Alberta grew by 1.37% (Table 2). Despite being the lowest year-over-year growth rate since the mid-1990s, the province's growth remained well above the national rate of 1.23%. Among the provinces, Alberta's year-over-year growth was tied with P.E.I. for fourth place. Manitoba had the highest year-over-year growth at 1.59%, followed by Ontario (1.52%) and Saskatchewan (1.40%). Newfoundland posted the lowest growth rate at -0.19%.

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates in Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Apr	Canada	Alberta	1-Apr	Canada	Alberta
2012	34,621,054	3,851,637	2012	1.14%	2.20%
2013	35,021,626	3,959,914	2013	1.16%	2.81%
2014	35,422,086	4,076,775	2014	1.14%	2.95%
2015	35,750,157	4,161,343	2015	0.93%	2.07%
2016	36,146,780	4,233,933	2016	1.11%	1.74%
2017	36,591,241	4,291,980	2017	1.23%	1.37%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 1st Quarter



Migration

Alberta saw a net gain of 4,693 people through migration from all sources (Table 4), accounting for 0.11% of the province's growth during the first quarter. This was less than half of the number gained during the same quarter last year when Alberta added more than 10,000 net new residents through migration. Negative net interprovincial migration and non-permanent resident outflows were responsible for the lower migration gains this quarter.

Interprovincial migration

This was the sixth consecutive quarter of net interprovincial losses for Alberta and the first time since the late 1980s that net losses have persisted for such a long period.

Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories as of April 1, 2017 and Growth Rates since April 1, 2016

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,591,241	1.23%
NL	528,683	-0.19%
PEI	149,790	1.37%
NS	953,173	0.60%
NB	757,641	0.20%
QC	8,371,498	0.83%
ON	14,135,610	1.52%
MB	1,332,629	1.59%
SK	1,161,365	1.40%
AB	4,291,980	1.37%
BC	4,789,221	1.26%
YT	37,808	1.56%
NT	44,381	-0.24%
NU	37,462	1.65%

Over the past year and a half, net outflows have topped 13,000. Despite the sustained negative trend, the total net outflow during this period has been small relative to the substantial net inflows in years prior: 38,598 in 2012/13; 35,382 in 2013/14; 21,594 in 2014/15 (Table 4).

In the first quarter, Alberta saw a net loss of 2,392 people to other provinces, about 900 more than the same quarter last year (Table 3). Among the provinces, Alberta experienced the largest interprovincial losses this quarter. Saskatchewan and Manitoba followed with 1,395 and 1,205 respectively. British Columbia continues to be the most popular destination for interprovincial migrants across the country, gaining a net of 3,526 people. British Columbia made the largest gains at Alberta's expense; the net exchange between the provinces was 2,430 (Map 1). This marked the twelfth consecutive quarter of Alberta's net loss of migrants to British Columbia. Ontario ranked second in net interprovincial gains with 2,702 new residents, 698 of which were from Alberta. Net exchanges with other provinces weren't entirely negative, as Alberta saw a small net gain from Saskatchewan (508) (Table 3).

Net International Migration

Gains from International migration continue to play a central role in Alberta's growth, increasing the province's population by 7,085 people. However, net international migration was down compared with the same quarter last year, mainly due to a large net outflow of non-permanent residents (NPRs) this quarter (-4,720).

Alberta has lost NPRs nine out the past ten quarters. Non-permanent residents include temporary foreign workers, foreign students, refugee claimants and their families; workers make up the majority of NPRs in Alberta. The number of NPRs in Alberta was an around 75,500 as of April 1st, down 30% from a peak of over 108,000 in October 2014.

Alberta experienced the largest net loss of NPRs nationally, and this quarter's net outflow was the largest since the second quarter of 2015. Of the provinces, Ontario saw the greatest net increase in NPRs (10,684), followed by Quebec (2,209) and British Columbia (1,602). Saskatchewan saw the second largest net loss of NPRs at -658.

Canada's 2017 immigration plan aims to admit around 300,000 new residents over the calendar year. In the first quarter of 2017, 72,788 immigrants landed in Canada and 18.4% of these were welcomed to Alberta (13,365). This was a near-record share for Alberta, and second only to Ontario (34.7%) this quarter.

Natural increase

Alberta added 7,160 people through natural increase, which is the result of 13,957 births and 6,797 deaths (Table 4). This amounts to a growth rate of 0.17% due to natural increase, the highest among the provinces. Alberta has had the highest provincial growth rate due to natural increase since the first quarter of 1981, a testament to its relatively youthful population.

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta January 1 to March 31, 2017

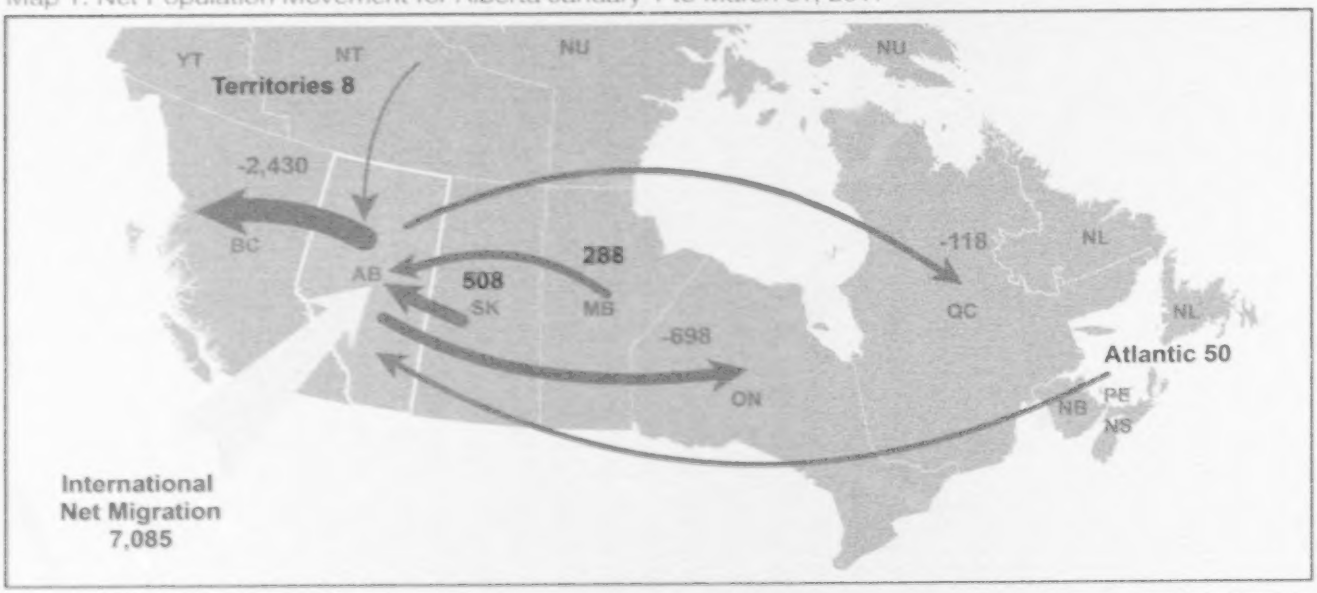

Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants January 1 to March 31, 2017

Origin \ Destination	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
NL	0	39	326	137	60	719	22	70	709	134	4	71	58
PEI	56	0	204	86	25	437	5	49	98	51	0	11	4
NS	155	154	0	472	219	1,421	136	80	875	286	0	86	22
NB	130	129	644	0	334	998	114	99	561	255	0	39	20
QC	89	4	193	414	0	3,853	82	27	607	577	34	11	5
ON	403	271	1,389	1,031	2,915	0	853	780	4,418	3,671	59	91	152
MB	69	18	121	92	115	1,174	0	622	1,022	942	11	18	13
SK	18	0	82	30	108	1,343	447	0	2,307	1,132	18	3	20
AB	553	160	823	657	725	5,116	734	1,799	0	7,174	140	294	24
BC	90	73	506	181	743	3,395	501	473	4,744	0	175	109	11
YT	0	12	33	22	0	75	14	46	84	144	0	32	0
NWT	38	13	4	11	5	86	56	54	377	137	53	0	63
NVT	45	0	45	9	14	118	48	14	5	24	0	37	0

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
IN	1,646	873	4,370	3,142	5,263	18,735	3,012	4,113	15,807	14,527	494	802	392
OUT	2,349	1,026	3,906	3,323	5,896	16,033	4,217	5,508	18,199	11,001	462	897	359
NET	-703	-153	464	-181	-633	2,702	-1,205	-1,395	-2,392	3,526	32	-95	33

Q1 2017	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
Outflow to AB	709	98	875	561	607	4418	1022	2307	0	4744	84	377	5
Inflow from AB	553	160	823	657	725	5116	734	1799	0	7174	140	294	24
Net Flow to AB	156	-62	52	-96	-118	-698	288	508	0	-2,430	-56	83	-19

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2012-13													
Jul-Sep	25,552	15,767	9,785	9,086	1,862	2,843	660	2,020	9,465	19,250	14,058	5,274	28,034
Oct-Dec	15,730	8,026	7,704	9,103	-355	1,473	531	771	7,515	15,219	12,888	5,671	22,436
Jan-Mar	21,438	11,692	9,746	8,095	5,284	1,522	547	745	12,055	21,801	12,835	5,947	28,689
Apr-Jun	29,833	18,470	11,363	10,582	7,316	1,661	545	1,440	17,132	28,495	13,760	5,549	36,706
Total	92,553	53,955	38,598	36,866	14,107	7,499	2,283	4,976	46,167	84,765	53,541	22,441	115,865
2013-14													
Jul-Sep	25,511	15,277	10,234	9,156	4,752	2,499	647	2,382	13,144	23,378	14,591	5,487	32,482
Oct-Dec	16,387	10,900	5,487	8,806	1,092	1,570	540	830	8,618	14,105	13,401	5,897	21,609
Jan-Mar	22,290	13,522	8,768	10,351	1,326	1,798	548	805	10,136	18,904	13,336	6,176	26,064
Apr-Jun	31,613	20,720	10,893	12,753	210	1,784	550	1,469	12,098	22,991	14,278	5,761	31,508
Total	95,801	60,419	35,382	41,066	7,380	7,651	2,285	5,486	43,996	79,378	55,606	23,321	111,663
2014-15													
Jul-Sep	22,189	15,803	6,386	10,283	43	2,515	646	2,382	9,547	15,933	15,100	5,690	25,343
Oct-Dec	14,650	11,574	3,076	9,150	-5,580	1,580	541	830	2,279	5,355	13,824	6,114	13,065
Jan-Mar	22,849	16,367	6,482	8,203	-5,775	1,811	548	805	874	7,356	13,692	6,396	14,652
Apr-Jun	29,786	24,136	5,650	11,970	-7,049	1,797	550	1,469	4,043	9,693	14,588	5,964	18,317
Total	89,474	67,880	21,594	39,606	-18,361	7,703	2,285	5,486	16,743	38,337	57,204	24,164	71,377
2015-16													
Jul-Sep	21,440	19,832	1,608	14,172	-2,662	2,523	646	2,382	10,723	12,331	15,351	5,884	21,798
Oct-Dec	11,355	12,150	-795	12,872	-3,541	1,586	541	830	8,034	7,239	14,001	6,323	14,917
Jan-Mar	16,869	18,394	-1,525	15,357	-1,980	1,817	548	805	11,817	10,292	13,875	6,609	17,558
Apr-Jun	21,837	24,002	-2,165	14,983	-1,633	1,802	550	1,469	12,467	10,302	14,808	6,164	18,946
Total	71,501	74,378	-2,877	57,384	-9,816	7,728	2,285	5,486	43,041	40,164	58,035	24,980	73,219
2016-17													
Jul-Sep	18,087	21,937	-3,850	10,072	1,159	2,523	646	2,382	10,444	6,594	15,529	6,073	16,050
Oct-Dec	9,785	12,358	-2,573	8,801	-1,376	1,586	541	830	6,128	3,555	14,166	6,523	11,198
Jan-Mar	15,807	18,199	-2,392	13,365	-4,720	1,817	548	805	7,085	4,693	13,957	6,797	11,853
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	43,679	52,494	-8,815	32,238	-4,937	5,926	1,735	4,017	23,657	14,842	43,652	19,393	39,101